



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**  
March 12, 2007

The Honorable Naida L. Kaen, Chairman  
House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 304  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 768 relative to voluntary registration with the Eastern Climate Registry

Dear Chairman Kaen and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) is pleased to testify in support of House Bill 768, which would align New Hampshire's existing voluntary greenhouse gas registry to the Eastern Climate Registry and to a national multi-state registry effort called "The Climate Registry". The purpose of New Hampshire's greenhouse gas registry is to encourage businesses, governments and individuals to make voluntary reductions in greenhouse gases in order to establish a baseline against which any future federal and state greenhouse gas reductions requirements might apply. The current New Hampshire registry holds numerous projects representing nearly 4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). New Hampshire was an early leader in this area and has continued to work with other states in the region to develop a broader registry as identified in the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers 2001 Climate Action Plan.

Since New Hampshire enacted its greenhouse gas registry, best practices have changed significantly, resulting in a great deal of work on the protocols associated with quantifying greenhouse gas emissions. The current national and international standard is the World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WRI/WBCSD) *GHG Protocol Corporate Standard*. New Hampshire participated in the development of this protocol and has continued to work with other eastern states to develop a regional registry based on the *GHG Protocol Corporate Standard*. This effort led to the development of the Eastern Climate Registry.

Recently, several western states have expressed interest in establishing greenhouse gas registries as one of many initial actions to address climate change. This interest has generated a workgroup of more than 30 states and tribes to develop a common greenhouse gas reporting system based the *GHG Protocol Corporate Standard* and essentially the Eastern Climate Registry. The purpose of this new national effort is to standardize best practices in greenhouse gas emissions data reporting and management, and to establish a common set of protocols. This registry, named "The Climate Registry" is envisioned to support any number of actions a state may take relative to tracking greenhouse gas emissions, including voluntary reporting as well as mandatory reporting and possible future regulatory greenhouse gas reductions programs.

The stated goals of this new national initiative are to:

- Create a common standard for tracking and measuring greenhouse gas emissions,
- Standardize best practices in greenhouse gas emissions reporting,
- Lower costs for states,
- Develop linkages between policies and management systems, and
- Establish a common infrastructure to support current and mandatory reporting.

Governor Lynch will be invited to endorse The Climate Registry in the upcoming months and asked to appoint a member to its board of directors to represent New Hampshire. Governor Lynch has expressed his support of this exciting new collaborative among states to address climate change. Widespread support for The Climate Registry also comes from the business community which is interested in participating in one registry among all states. Businesses do not want to have to document their emissions in different registries and do not want to see states adopt different protocols with different standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have further questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Robert R. Scott, Director, Air Resources Division (271-1088, [rscott@des.state.nh.us](mailto:rscott@des.state.nh.us)) or Joanne Morin, Administrator Technical Programs (271-5552, [jmorin@des.state.nh.us](mailto:jmorin@des.state.nh.us)).

Sincerely,

  
for Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: HB 768 sponsors